

Claims

- 5 1. In an threaded information visualization system that provides a visualization of threaded information that includes plural threaded information entries, a graphical representation of the threaded information rendered on a display screen, comprising:
- an indented threading arrangement of parallel, generally one-dimensional entry lines that each represent one of the threaded information entries.
- 10 2. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the threaded information entries include plural fields of entry information and in which the entry lines are rendered with variations corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.
- 15 3. The graphical representation of claim 2 in which the entry lines are rendered with colors corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.
- 20 4. The graphical representation of claim 3 in which each information entry has an originator and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the originator of the information entry.
5. The graphical representation of claim 4 in which plural information entries may share a common originator and in which the color of an entry line corresponds to the number of information entries provided by the originator of the entry line.
- 25 6. The graphical representation of claim 3 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry.
- 30 7. The graphical representation of claim 3 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

8. The graphical representation of claim 7 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

5 9. The graphical representation of claim 2 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

10 10. The graphical representation of claim 9 in which each information entry includes an amount of information and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relates to the amount of information in the information entry.

11. The graphical representation of claim 9 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

15 12. The graphical representation of claim 2 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

20 13. The graphical representation of claim 12 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined field of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry.

14. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries, the graphical representation further comprising text information only about top-level information entries.

25 15. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the entry lines are horizontal.

16. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the entry lines are arranged vertically.

30 17. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information

entries and in which the entry indicators representing the top-level information entries include spacing between them transverse to their one dimension.

18. The graphical representation of claim 17 in which plural
5 ones of the entry indicators are positioned together to represent a thread of threaded information and in which the entry indicators representing the thread include no spacing between them transverse to their one dimension.

19. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which plural
10 ones of the entry indicators are positioned together to represent a thread of threaded information and in which the entry indicators representing the thread include no spacing between them transverse to their one dimension.

20. The graphical representation of claim 1 in which the entry
15 lines associated with the information entries of a user-selected thread are replaced with enlarged entry bars.

21. The graphical representation of claim 20 in which the
20 threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries and in which the visualization further comprises text information only about a top-level information entry of the selected thread.

22. The graphical representation of claim 20 in which user-
selected enlarged entry bars are distinguished from other enlarged entry bars.

23. In threaded information visualization software that is on a
25 computer readable medium and provides a visualization of threaded information that includes plural threaded information entries, the improvement comprising:

a rendering engine for rendering a threaded information visualization as an indented threading arrangement of generally one-

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dimensional entry lines that each represent one of the threaded information entries.

24. The software of claim 23 further comprising user interface controls for allowing a user to select from among plural visualization
5 formats that each include an indented threading arrangement of parallel, generally one-dimensional entry lines.

25. The software of claim 23 in which the threaded information entries include plural fields of entry information and in which the entry lines are rendered with variations corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

26. The software of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered with colors corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

27. The software of claim 26 in which each information entry
15 has an originator and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry
information relate to the originator of the information entry.

28. The software of claim 27 in which plural information entries may share a common originator and in which the color of an entry line corresponds to the number of information entries provided by the originator of the entry line.

29. The software of claim 25 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry.

30. The software of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

31. The software of claim 30 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

32. The software of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered with lengths corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

5 33. The software of claim 32 in which each information entry includes an amount of information and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the amount of information in the information entry.

10 34. The software of claim 32 in which the entry lines are rendered at positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

35. The software of claim 25 in which the entry lines are rendered at lateral positions corresponding to information in one or more of the predefined fields of entry information.

15 36. The software of claim 35 in which each information entry has an associated time and in which the one or more predefined fields of entry information relate to the associated time of the information entry.

37. The software of claim 23 in which the entry lines are horizontal.

20 38. The software of claim 23 in which the entry lines are arranged vertically.

39. The software of claim 23 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries, the visualization further comprising text information only about top-level information entries.

25 40. The software of claim 23 in which the entry lines associated with the information entries of a user-selected thread are replaced with enlarged entry bars.

41. The software of claim 40 in which the threaded information includes threads that begin with top-level information entries and in which

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the visualization further comprises text information only about a top-level information entry of the selected thread.

42 The software of claim 40 in which user-selected enlarged entry bars are distinguished from other enlarged entry bars.

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